

Week Ending Friday, July 29, 2005

### **The President's Radio Address**

*July 23, 2005*

Good morning. Under the Constitution, one of the most consequential decisions a President makes is an appointment to the Supreme Court. This week I was proud to announce my nomination of Judge John Roberts to be the Supreme Court's next Associate Justice.

Judge Roberts has a stellar record of achievement. He is a man of sound judgment and the highest integrity. He has the qualities Americans expect in a judge, experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law and for the liberties guaranteed to every citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench.

Judge Roberts currently serves on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which is often considered America's second highest court. He has also served as a top lawyer at the Department of Justice, an attorney in the White House for President Ronald Reagan, and a distinguished advocate in private practice. He gained early experience at the Supreme Court as a law clerk to Justice William Rehnquist. He graduated with high honors from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School. And as a young man growing up in Indiana, he captained his high school football team and worked summers in a steel mill to earn money for college.

One of the highest honors for any lawyer is to argue a case before the Supreme Court. In his extraordinary career, Judge Roberts has argued a remarkable 39 cases before the Nation's highest court. He is known by Democrats and Republicans alike as a brilliant thinker, a fair-minded judge, and a decent man. After I nominated Judge Roberts to the Court of Appeals in 2001, a bipartisan group of more than 150 lawyers sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and here

is what they wrote: "Although as individuals we reflect a wide spectrum of political party affiliation and ideology, we are united in our belief that John Roberts will be an outstanding Federal appeals court judge and should be confirmed by the United States Senate. He is one of the very best and most highly respected appellate lawyers in the Nation."

The next step for Judge Roberts is the Senate confirmation process. The process is off to a good start. Since I announced his nomination, Judge Roberts has met with a number of Senators from both parties. Democrats and Republicans have expressed their respect for Judge Roberts' qualifications and intellect, just as they did 2 years ago when they confirmed him to be a Federal appeals court judge by unanimous consent.

In the weeks ahead, the Senate will have an opportunity to rise above partisanship. I've spoken to Senate Majority Leader Frist and Minority Leader Reid as well as chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senators Specter and Leahy. These Senators share my goal of an orderly and dignified confirmation process, and it is important that Judge Roberts be confirmed before the Court reconvenes on October the 3d.

President Clinton's two appointments to the Supreme Court proved that the Senate can conduct a thorough review and vote on a nominee within a reasonable timetable. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was confirmed 42 days after the President submitted her nomination, and Justice Stephen Breyer was confirmed 73 days after his nomination was submitted. In both cases, Democrats and Republicans helped move the process forward promptly and voted to confirm the justices, despite significant philosophical differences.

America is fortunate to have a man of such wisdom and intellectual strength willing to serve our country. I'm grateful to Judge Roberts' wife, Jane, and their two children, Jack

and Josie, and I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as 109th justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:49 a.m. on July 22 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Remarks on Signing the Book of Condolence at the Embassy of Egypt** *July 25, 2005*

**President Bush.** Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for having us. Laura and I have come to your Embassy to express our heartfelt sympathies for those who have lost their lives and our strong determination to stand with the Government of Egypt and the people of Egypt in rejecting this kind of violence and terror.

The people who struck in Sharm el-Sheikh killed Muslims, innocent mothers and dads, people who were trying to make a living. They have no heart. They have no conscience. They have no ideology that is hopeful. And they have an ideology of hate.

It was my honor to speak to your President, President Mubarak, and again reiterate my country's strong desire to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Egypt and bring justice to those who have killed innocent people.

Thank you for letting us come by.

**Ambassador Nabil Fahmy.** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mrs. Bush. I want to thank you both very much and very sincerely for coming here this morning to share with us in this moment of remembrance to the people who have lost their lives—Egyptians, foreigners—at Sharm el-Sheikh over the weekend. I think your presence here, your phone call to the President over the weekend, and also the many Americans who have been in touch with our Embassy in Cairo, reflect the nature of the relationship that we have together, as two countries work-

ing hand in hand for peace and stability in the region, working against terrorism.

As you are well aware, we were the targets of terrorism years ago, as you were on 9/11. And we continue to work together, resolute, to deal with this scourge, and ultimately, hopefully, to develop in the Middle East a region that is prosperous, stable, and secure for all.

I'd like to see this occasion to thank you both and, through you, all of the American people and to reaffirm our determination to continue to pursue terrorism without equivocation—and determination and resolve.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:52 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

### **Statement on the Launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*** *July 26, 2005*

On behalf of all Americans, I wish the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* a safe and successful mission. Today's launch marks NASA's return to flight following the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* crew in February 2003. I thank the men and women of NASA who have dedicated themselves to putting our space program back on track. Our space program is a source of great national pride, and this flight is an essential step toward our goal of continuing to lead the world in space science, human space flight, and space exploration.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Proposed "Small Business Health Fairness Act"** *July 26, 2005*

I applaud the House of Representatives for passing the "Small Business Health Fairness Act," which will increase the availability of Association Health Plans. AHPs are a fair, innovative, and commonsense approach to make health insurance more affordable and accessible, one of my top domestic priorities. By letting small businesses join together to